NUMB. CCLVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Divide & Impera.

Wednesday, December 26. 1711.

PLeasure and Recreation of one Kind or other are absolutely necessary to relieve our Minds and Bodies from too constant Attention and Labour: Where therefore publick Diversions are tolerated, it behoves Persons of Distinction, with their Power and Example, to preside over them in such a Manner, as to check any thing that tends to the Corruption of Manners, or which is too mean or trivial for the Entertainment of reasonable Creatures. As to the Diversions of this Kind in this Town, we owe them to the Arts of Poetry and Musick: My own private Opinion, with Relation to such Recreations, I have heretofore given with all the Frankness imaginable; what concerns those Arts at present the Reader shall have from my Correspondents. The first of the Letters from which I acquit my self for this Day, is written by one who proposes to improve our Entertainments of Dramatick Poetry, and the other comes from three Persons who, as soon as named, will be thought capable of advancing the present State of Musick.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I Am considerably obliged to you for your speedy Publication of my last in yours of the 18th Instant, and am in no small Hopes of being settled in the Post of *Comptroller of the Cryes*. Of all the Objections I have hearkened after in publick Coffee-houses, there is but one that seems to carry any Weight with it, viz. That such a Post would come too near the Nature of a Monopoly. Now, Sir, because I would have all sorts of People made easy, and being willing to have more Strings than one to my Bow; in Case that of *Comptroller* should fail me, I have since formed another Project, which, being grounded on the dividing a present Monopoly, I hope will give the Publick an Equivalent to their full Content. You know, Sir, it is allowed that the Business of the Stage is, as the Latin has it, *Jucunda & Idonea dicere Vitæ*. Now there being but one Dramatick Theatre licensed for the Delight and Profit of this extensive Metropolis, I do humbly propose, for the Convenience of such its Inhabitants as are too distant from *Covent-Garden*, that another *Theatre of Arts* may be erected in some spacious Part of the City, and that the Direction thereof may be made a Franchise in Fee to me and my Heirs for ever. And that the Town may have no Jealousy of my ever coming to a Union with the Set of Actors now in Being, I do further propose to constitute for my Deputy my near Kinsman and Adventurer, *Kit Crotchet*, whose long Experience and Improvements in those Affairs need no Recommendation. 'Twas obvious to every Spectator what a quite different Foot the Stage was upon during his Government; and had he not been bolted out of his Trap-doors, his Garrison might have held out for ever; he having by long Pains and Perseverance arriv'd at the Art of making his Army fight without Pay or Provisions. I must confess it, with a melancholly Amazement, I see so wonderful a Genius laid aside, and the late Slaves of the Stage now become its Masters; Dunces that will be sure to suppress all Theatrical Entertainments and Activities that they are not able themselves to shine in!

'Every Man that goes to a Play is not obliged to have either Wit or Understanding; and I insist upon it, that all who go there should see something which may improve them in a Way of which they are capable. In short, Sir, I would have something *done* as well as *said* on the Stage. A Man may have an active Body though he has not a quick Conception; for the Imitation therefore of such as are, as I may so speak, corporeal Wits or nimble Fellows, I would fain ask any of the present Mismanagers, why should not Rope-dancers, Vaulters, Tumblers, Ladder-Walkers, and Posture-makers, appear again on our Stage? After such a Representation, a five-bar Gate would be leaped with a better Grace next time any of the Audience went a hunting. Sir, these things cry loud for Reformation, and fall properly under the Province of SPECTATOR General; but how indeed should it be otherwise while Fellows (that for twenty Years together were never paid but as their Master was in the Humour) now presume to pay others more than ever they had in their Lives; and, in Contempt of the Practice of Persons of Condition, have the Insolence to owe no Tradesman a Farthing at the End of the Week. Sir, all I propose is the publick Good; for no one can imagine I shall ever get a private Shilling by it: Therefore I hope you will recommend this Matter in one of your

this

this Week's Papers; and desire when my House opens you will accept the Liberty of it for the Trouble you have received from,

SIR,

P. S. I have Assurances that the Trunk-maker will declare for us.

Your humble Servant,
Ralph Crotchet.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

WE whose Names are subscribed think you the propereſt Perſon to ſignify what we have to offer the Town in Behalf of our ſelves, and the Art which we profeſs, *Muſick*. We conceive Hopes of your Favour from the Speculations on the Miſtakes which the Town run into with Regard to their Pleaſure of this Kind; and believing your Method of Judging is, that you conſider Muſick only valuable as it is agreeable to and heightens the Purpoſe of Poetry, we conſent that That is not only the true way of reliſhing that Pleaſure, but alſo that without it a Compoſure of Muſick is the ſame thing as a Poem where all the Rules of poetical Numbers are obſerved, but the Words of no Senſe or Meaning; to ſay it ſhorter, meer muſical Sounds are in our Art no other than nonſenſe Verſes are in Poetry. Muſick therefore is to aggravate what is intended by Poetry; it muſt always have ſome Paſſion or Sentiment to expreſs, or elſe Violins, Voices, or any other Organs of Sound, afford an Entertainment very little above the Rattles of Children. It was from this Opinion of the Matter, that when Mr. *Clayton* had finiſhed his Studies in *Italy*, and brought over the Opera of *Arſinoe*; that Mr. *Haym* and Mr. *Dieupart*, who had the Honour to be well known and received among the Nobility and Gentry, were zealouſly enclined to aſſiſt, by their Sollicitations, in introducing ſo elegant an Entertainment as the *Italian* Muſick grafted upon *Engliſh* Poetry. For this End Mr. *Dieupart* and Mr *Haym*, according to their ſeveral Opportunities, promoted the Introduction of *Arſinoe*, and did it to the beſt Advantage ſo great a Novelty would allow. It is not proper to trouble you with Particulars of the juſt Complaints we all of us have to make; but ſo it is, that without Regard to our obliging Pains, we are all equally ſet aſide in the preſent Opera. Our Application therefore to you is only to inſert this Letter in your Paper, that the Town may know we have all three joined together to make Entertainments of Muſick for the Future at Mr. *Clayton*'s Houſe in *York-Buildings*. What we promiſe our ſelves is, to make a Subſcription of two Guineas for eight times; and that the Entertainment, with the Names of the Author of the Poetry, may be printed, to be ſold in the Houſe, with an Account of the ſeveral Authors of the vocal as well as inſtrumental Muſick for each Night; the Money to be paid at the Receipt of the Tickets at Mr. *Charles Lillie*'s. It will, we hope, Sir, be eaſily allowed, that we are capable of undertaking to exhibit by our joint Force and different Qualifications all that can be done in Muſick; but leaſt you ſhould think ſo dry a thing as an Account of our Propoſal ſhould be a Matter unworthy your Paper, which generally contains ſomething of publick uſe; give us Leave to ſay, that endeavouring our Deſign is no leſs than reviving an Art, which runs to Ruine by the utmoſt Barbariſm under an Affectation of Knowledge. We aim at eſtabliſhing ſome ſettled Notion of what is Muſick, at recovering from Neglect and Want very many Families who depend upon it, at making all Foreigners who pretend to ſucceed in *England* to learn the Language of it, as we our ſelves have done, and not be ſo inſolent as to expect a whole Nation, a refined and learned Nation, ſhould ſubmit to learn them. In a Word, Mr. SPECTATOR, with all Deference and Humility, we hope to behave our ſelves in this Undertaking in ſuch a Manner, that all *Engliſh* Men who have any Skill in Muſick may be furthered in it for their Profit or Diverſion by what new things we ſhall produce; never pretending to ſurpaſs others, or aſſerting that any thing which is a Science is not attainable by all Men of all Nations who have proper Genius for it: We ſay, Sir, what we hope for is not expected will arrive to us by contemning others, but through the utmoſt Diligence recommending our ſelves.

We are,

SIR,

Your moſt humble Servants,
Thomas Clayton.
Nicolino Haym.
Charles Dieupart.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Ladies of Quality, By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow being Thurſday the 27th of December, will be preſented a Play call'd Vertue Betray'd; Or, Anna Bullen, the Part of Anna Bullen by Mrs. Oldfield, King Harry the 8th Mr. Powel, Cardinal Woolſey Mr. Cibber, Northumberland Mr. Keen, Henry Mr. Wilks, Rochford Mr. Mills, Lady Diana Talbot Mrs. Rogers, Lady Elizabeth Blunt Mrs. Potter, Young Princeſs Elizabeth Miſs Smith. To which will be added a Farce of one Act only, call'd the Country-Wake, the Part of Hob by Mr. Dogget.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, this preſent Wedneſday, being the 26th of December, will be perform'd an Opera call'd Hydaſpes. The Part of Darius to be perform'd by Signora Margarita de L'Eſpine. The Boxes 5 s. Pit 5 s. Firſt Gallery 2 s. 6 d. Upper Gallery 1 s. 6 d. No Perſon to be admitted without Tickets. To begin Exactly at Six.

William Lovejoy, Silkman, at the Croſs-Keys in the Strand near the Fountain Tavern, has to ſell a Parcel of very fine French Bordeaux Price Claret, brought directly from the Port of Southampton from on board the Providence Prize, being entirely neat, and in no ones Hands but his own ſince landed: As alſo ſome Jars of Lucca Oil, by the Real Galley, being extraordinary good, and will ſell the Claret for 28 l. per Hogſhead and 30 s. per Dozen, and the Oil at 13 s. per Gallon and 3 s. 6 d. per Quart.

Wines to be ſold by Retail.

Excellent Red and White Port, and Red and White Liſbon, being neat Wines as they came from the Growers, the beſt Growth in Portugal. To be ſold by the Importer in a Vault in Brabant-Court in Philpot-Lane, viz. Red and White Port at 50 s. per Gallon, or 14 l. per Hhd. Red and White Liſbon at 50 s. per Gallon, or 16 l. per Hhd. Attendance will be given every Day till 6 at Night.

The Houſe (late Mr. Clinch's) in Epſom, is now a Boarding School, being very large and convenient for the Purpoſe, ſituate in an healthful Air near the Downs, where Latin, French, Writing, &c. are taught by J. Crew, A. M.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.